(a) whether Government is aware that 800 year old historical monument known as Lal Mahal or Red Palace has been demolished by a private builder in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has taken any action in this regard;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether it is a fact that still there are around seventy thousand buildings and monuments which are not in the list of protected monuments; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) Lal Mahal located in the west of Nizamuddin, New Delhi, is a 13th century monument. It is not declared as a monument of national importance. In October, 2008, unauthorized activity was noticed and a report was immediately lodged by the Archaeological Survey of India with the local police. A show cause notice was also issued to the offenders under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 and Rules, 1959. The Delhi Government has also been requested to direct the concerned agencies to take necessary steps to prevent damage to the heritage structure.

(e) and (f) It is not possible to indicate the accurate number of unprotected monuments/sites. The Government has set up a National Mission for Monuments and Antiquities to create a national database of monuments.

Unproctected heritage sites

1587. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that many of the monuments and heritage sites remain unprotected for the past many years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether Government have any proposal to set up National Heritage Sites Commission to look into the issue;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when it would be set up?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) It is not possible at present to give accurate details of unprotected monuments/sites. The Government has set up a National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities to create a national database for all monuments/sites.

(c) to (e) The National Heritage Sites Commission Bill is under consideration of the Government.

Misuse of protected sites

1588. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state: